



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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UN, US warnings of security threats in Sudan

- Much was made in the local press about the recent UN and U.S. Embassy warnings concerning a possible threat to western interests. The Minister of State at the Ministry of Interior, Alio Ayang Alliyo, belittled the impact of the U.S. Embassy statement, saying it was not worthy of comment. According to him, the “interests” referred to by the UN and the Embassy are Sudan’s interests as well “and we will do our best to protect and preserve them.” Meanwhile, foreign ministry spokesman Ali Al-Saddig said that the Embassy should first verify this kind of information before disseminating it to the public. Al-Saddig further stated that the Embassy should have conveyed to the MFA any concerns about security it is facing given that it is the MFA’s duty to protect all missions in Sudan. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- The UN’s spokesperson, Radhia Achouri, stated that the UN’s advisory message concerning a possible security threat was intended for UN personnel and asserted that this advisory did not specify that Al-Qaida, or any other source, was behind the threat. Sudan’s ambassador to the UN, Abdel Mahmoud Abdel Haleem, accused the UN of being part of a plot that aims to mar Sudan’s image. (*Al-Sudani, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

Darfur

- The African Union cease-fire committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow in El-Fasher for the first time. The panel will discuss recent cease-fire violations. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- The Darfur rebel group, National Redemption Front, is scheduled to meet in N’Djamena (Chad) next Monday to discuss political and military coordination within its ranks. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- President Bush has requested an additional \$350 million to be allocated for critical humanitarian crises in Darfur and Afghanistan. (*Al-Ayaam*)

Miscellaneous

- The Office of the Presidency is scheduled to meet today to discuss the unresolved north-south boundary issue related to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- The speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Al-Tahir, met with members of the U.S. Congress in Washington recently to brief them on progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur Peace Agreement. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

- While addressing a public gathering in Sawakin (East Sudan), Assistant to the President Nafie Ali Nafie reiterated the government’s total rejection to all forms of neo-colonialism. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Quote of the Day:

“Talk of imminent hostile attacks on Westerners in the country is in keeping with a plot aimed at spreading chaos in the country for political ends known to everyone.” -- Sudan’s Ambassador to the UN, Abdel Mahmoud Abdel Haleem, reacting to recent security advisories issued by the UN and U.S. Embassy in Khartoum

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